Amendments to the Claims

CLAIMS

 (currently amended) A method of course coarse representation of a shape of a visible object in a digital picture comprising the steps of:

segmenting visible objects from the digital picture:

extracting a bitmap for an object of interest from the segmented visible objects; and

estimating from the bitmap and a display aspect ratio a binding box for the object of interest.

2. (original) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the estimating step comprises the steps of:

estimating in pixel units a set of parameters for the binding box; and normalizing the pixel units to form a feature vector representing the binding box.

- 3. (currently amended) The method as recited in claim 2 further comprising the step of searching a video database having visible objects, each visible object having an associated feature vector, <u>as</u> to find those objects whose feature vectors match the feature vector of the object of interest.
- 4. (original) The method as recited in claim 3 wherein the searching step comprises the steps of:

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computing aspect ratios for all visible objects in the video database;
computing distances according to a specified distance metric between
the desired aspect ratio and the aspect ratios for the visible objects in the
video database;

sorting the distances in descending order to produce a sort list of aspect ratios and associated visible objects; and

displaying the visible objects associated with the aspect ratios that are at the top of the sort list.